**Universal Periodic Review, 42nd session**

**Human Rights Council**

**UPR of Pakistan, 30 January 2023**

**Intervention by Denmark**

*[Check against delivery]*

Mr. President,

Denmark welcomes the delegation of Pakistan and thanks it for its presentation.

We commend Pakistan on enacting laws to curb discrimination, including against women, transgender people, and persons with disabilities. It is important that the adopted laws be fully implemented to fulfill their objectives.

Protecting the rights of religious minorities is of key importance to ensure a fair and just society. Minorities of all faiths must enjoy freedom of religion or belief and must be protected from discrimination and persecution.

*Denmark recommends* Pakistan to:

1. *Amend the Section of the Penal Code that criminalizes offences relating to religion to ensure its full compatibility with international human rights obligations and standards.*
2. *Take all necessary steps towards the full abolition of the death penalty*
3. *Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.*

Denmark wishes Pakistan a successful review.

Thank you.